

TENNESSEE TO GET \$20.1 MILLION TO REDUCE CLASS SIZE

In his weekly radio address, President Clinton will urge Congress to work in a bipartisan spirit to continue his plan to reduce class size in early grades to 18 students per teacher. He will also announce that the U.S. Department of Education is releasing new guidelines to help states and local school districts use the funds they will receive this summer to begin hiring well-qualified teachers to reduce class size in early grades. As the U.S. Senate considers the Education Flexibility Act, it is more important than ever that the Murray-Kennedy amendment to continue the President's class size reduction plan is passed as well.

Studies show that smaller class sizes help teachers provide more personal attention to students and spend less time on discipline; as a result students learn more and get a stronger foundation in the basic skills. In 1998, President Clinton proposed to help local schools hire 100,000 well-prepared teachers in order to reduce class size in grades 1-3 to a national average of 18, and make sure that every child gets a solid foundation in the basics. Last year, the President signed into law the first installment of his seven-year, \$12.4 billion proposal to hire 100,000 new teachers nationwide. For the first year, \$1.2 billion was provided to help local communities hire 30,000 teachers. The funds will be available to school districts in July. Local school boards will be incorporating these funds into the budgets they are developing right now for the next school year. To give communities the certainty they need to effectively plan and phase in a seven-year reduction in class size, Congress must act now.

In July, Tennessee will receive \$20.1 million as its first installment of funds to hire teachers to reduce class size in early grades. For Tennessee's largest school districts, that means:

TENNESSEE	
MEMPHIS CITY SCHOOL DIST	\$3,908,205
NASHVILLE-DAVIDSON COUNT	1,764,390
KNOX COUNTY SCHOOL DISTR	1,107,332
CHATTANOOGA CITY SCHOOL	703,872
SHELBY COUNTY SCHOOL DIS	448,108
MONTGOMERY COUNTY SCHOOL	395,703
JACKSON-MADISON CONSOLID	351,240
SUMNER COUNTY SCHOOL DIS	328,755
HAMILTON COUNTY SCHOOL D	306,521
SULLIVAN COUNTY SCHOOL D	257,866
CAMPBELL COUNTY SCHOOL D	242,747
RUTHERFORD COUNTY SCHOOL	229,569
SEVIER COUNTY SCHOOL DIS	217,564
MAURY COUNTY SCHOOL DIST	206,785
HAMBLÉN COUNTY SCHOOL DI	186,215
BLOUNT COUNTY SCHOOL DIS	185,431
KINGSPORT CITY SCHOOL DI	178,682
PUTNAM COUNTY SCHOOL DIS	177,482
HAWKINS COUNTY SCHOOL DI	172,642
WASHINGTON COUNTY SCHOOL	167,599

The guidelines and total estimated school district allocations are available on the Internet at <http://www.ed.gov/inits/ClassSize/index.html>.